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Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai:—" In view of the large output of cinchona bark and better quinine contents of the bark obtained in the Anamalais, does not the Government think it advisable to encourage private agencies to grow cinchona? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" The private agencies are now turning to tea cultivation."

Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai:—" If private agencies are given a higher rate of price, I am sure private agencies will come forward to take up cinchona plantation? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" I thank the hon. Member for his information."

Electricity

Charges for electricity supplied by the Madras Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd., to the Government.

* 421 *Q.*—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount paid by the Madras Government to the Madras Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd., for the energy supplied by them to the Government buildings during the last year;

(*b*) the rate charged by the company per unit;

(*c*) the reasons why the Government have agreed to a higher rate than that obtaining in Bombay, Calcutta or Rangoon;

(*d*) whether the question of the reduction in the rate charged for electricity supplied by the Madras Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd., was ever considered and, if so, when and with what results;

(*e*) the name and description of meters that are used for calculating the current consumed and their respective actual costs and the charge levied per month for meters supplied by the Corporation; and

(*f*) whether the Madras Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd., furnishes every year to the Government of Madras its annual report on the working of the Company?

A.—(*a*) The exact amount paid by the Madras Government has not been ascertained but Rs. 4,07,776–12–6 was paid for energy supplied to all Government buildings including those belonging to the Government of India.

(*b*) 3·5 annas.

(*c*) The Government have no information as to the rates now charged at Calcutta, Bombay or Rangoon, but at the time the present rate (which was a reduction on the old rate) was agreed to the latest information available was that Calcutta paid 1·9 annas, Bombay 3·06 annas and Rangoon 3·5 annas per unit. The variation of rate depends upon a variety of conditions.

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(*d*) Yes, in 1928 and 1929, so far as the charge for Government buildings is concerned and a flat rate of 3·5 annas per unit was agreed to for three years from 1st January 1930.

As regards rates charged to the public the Government decided in 1928 that no reduction was called for.

(*e*) The Government have no information.

(*f*) Yes.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" May I know whether Government is not aware that the Madras Electric Supply Corporation is giving a lesser rate to private companies consuming a large number of units? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" I know that they regulate the rates according to the quantity consumed."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" When Government is consuming a large amount of current, why are they not getting that concession? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" We have got that concession which depends on the quantity consumed by us."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" May I know whether some private companies are not paying much less than what the Government is paying? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" I am not aware."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" In view of the fact that in Calcutta the rate charged is 1·9 annas per unit, have Government satisfied themselves that the rate which the Madras Electric Supply Corporation is charging Government, viz., 3·5 annas per unit, is not too high? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" The conditions in different cities are different."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—" May I know how long this agreement with the Electric Corporation entered into in 1928 should continue and how long the present rates will continue? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" The rates payable by private consumers are under consideration."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—" I am very glad that they are under consideration, having regard to the representation made by the public both to the Corporation and through newspapers. Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to consider the advisability of reducing the rates? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" I am sorry I cannot give a definite undertaking. But I can give this assurance that, as I said, the question of rates will be carefully considered."

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Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" May I know whether, as a measure of retrenchment, the Government will not think it desirable to reduce the rates they are now paying? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" The question of retrenchment has nothing to do with the rates payable to others."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" May I know if the public will be taken into confidence in considering the rates the company will be allowed to charge? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" I shall consider my hon. Friend's suggestion."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—" In clause (*c*) of the answer, it is said ' the variation of rate depends upon a variety of conditions.' May I know some of the varying conditions?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" For instance, the extent of consumption, the facilities which the suppliers have, the facilities which the consumers have and many other conditions."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" May I know whether Government are aware that, if they reduce the rate by one anna or half an anna, half a lakh of rupees will be saved from the amount they are now paying? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" I am not aware of that."

Use of teak poles for transmission lines from Pykara to other distributing centres.

* 422 *Q.*—Mr. Yakub Hasan : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have taken up the question of using teak poles for the transmission lines from Pykara to the various distributing centres and also within the areas which actually receive the power;

(*b*) whether the Government are contemplating the use of steel poles;

(*c*) whether there is any proposal to insist in future that all licensees should use only teak poles for transmission lines as has been done at Calicut; and

(*d*) what would be the saving in expenditure if teak is substituted for steel for the transmission lines from Pykara?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The question has been considered by the Chief Engineer for Hydro-electric development. It is not proposed to use teak poles for transmission lines as the cost of teak poles including transportation and erection charges is higher than that of steel poles of equivalent strength and longer life, and steel affords a better protection against interruptions to the service due to lightning.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) The cost would be higher.